

## ANTHROPOLOGIST DISGRACED OVER NEANDERTHAL FRAUD

It appeared to be one of archaeology's most sensational finds. The skull fragment discovered in a peat bog near Hamburg was more than 36,000 years old—and was the vital missing link between modern humans and Neanderthals.

This, at least, is what Professor Reiner Protsch von Zieten—a distinguished, cigar-smoking German anthropologist—told his scientific colleagues, to global acclaim, after being invited to date the extremely rare skull.

However, the professor's 30-year-old academic career has now ended in disgrace after the revelation that he systematically falsified the dates on this and numerous other "Stone Age" relics.

Yesterday [February 18], his university in Frankfurt announced he had been forced to retire because of numerous "falsehoods and manipulations". According to experts, the professor's deceptions may mean an entire tranche of the history of man's development will have to be rewritten.

"Anthropology is going to have to completely revise its picture of modern man between 40,000 and 10,000 years ago," said Thomas Terberger, the archaeologist who discovered the hoax. "Prof. Protsch's work appeared to prove that anatomically modern humans and Neanderthals had co-existed, and perhaps had even had children together. This now appears to be rubbish."



The scandal only came to light when Professor Protsch was caught trying to sell his department's entire chimpanzee skull collection to the United States.

An inquiry later established that he had also passed off fake fossils as real ones and had plagiarised other scientists' work.

His discovery appeared to show that Neanderthals had spread much further north than was previously known.

During their investigation, the university discovered that the flamboyant Professor Protsch, 65, was unable to work his own carbon-dating machine.

(Source: by Luke Harding, The Guardian, February 19, 2005, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/germany/article/0,2763,1418083,00.html>)

## US SCIENTISTS TOLD TO ALTER FINDINGS

More than 200 scientists employed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service say they have been directed to alter official findings to lessen protections for plants and animals, according to a new survey.

The survey of the agency's scientific staff of 1,400 had a 30% response rate and was conducted jointly by the Union of Concerned Scientists and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility.

A division of the Department of the Interior, the Fish and Wildlife Service is charged with determining which animals and plants should be placed on the endangered species list and with designating areas where such species

need to be protected.

More than half of the biologists and other researchers who responded to the survey said they knew of cases in which commercial interests, including timber, grazing, development and energy companies, had applied political pressure to reverse scientific conclusions deemed harmful to their business.

(Source: by Julie Cart, The Los Angeles Times, February 10, 2005)

## 11,000 US SOLDIERS NOW DEAD FROM DU POISONING

Considering the tons of depleted uranium used by the US, the Iraq war can truly be called a nuclear war.

*Preventive Psychiatry E-Newsletter* (no. 169) alleges that the reason Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Anthony Principi stepped down earlier in February was the growing scandal surrounding the use of uranium munitions in the Iraq war.

Writing in the newsletter, Arthur N. Bernklau, executive director of Veterans for Constitutional Law, based in New York, stated: "The real reason for Mr Principi's departure was really never given; however, a special report published by eminent scientist Leuren Moret, naming depleted uranium as the definitive cause of the 'Gulf War Syndrome', has fed a growing scandal about the continued use of uranium munitions by the US Military."

Bernklau continued: "This malady [from uranium munitions], that thousands of our military have suffered and died from, has finally been identified as the



"Good morning! This is your laptop random security software. Please get up without any sudden movement, go over to the far wall, fold your arms above your head and spread your legs."

## ... GLOBAL NEWS ...

cause of this sickness, eliminating the guessing. The terrible truth is now being revealed."

He added: "Out of the 580,400 soldiers who served in GW1 [the first Gulf War], of them, 11,000 are now dead! By the year 2000, there were 325,000 on Permanent Medical Disability. This astounding number of 'Disabled Vets' means that, a decade later, 56% of those soldiers who served have some form of permanent medical problems!"

The disability rate for the wars of the last century was five per cent, although it was higher, at 10 per cent, in Vietnam.

"The VA Secretary [Principi] was aware of this fact as far back as 2000," wrote Bernklau. "He and the Bush administration have been hiding these facts, but now, thanks to Moret's report, [it] ...is far too big to hide or to cover up!"

"Terry Jamison, Public Affairs Specialist, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs at the VA Central Office, recently reported that 'Gulf Era Veterans' now on medical disability, since 1991, number 518,739 veterans," said Bernklau.

"The long-term effects have revealed that DU [uranium oxide] is a virtual death sentence," stated Bernklau. "Marion Fulk, a nuclear physical chemist, who retired from the Lawrence Livermore nuclear weapons lab and was also involved with the Manhattan Project, interprets the new and rapid malignancies in the soldiers [from the 2003 Iraq war] as 'spectacular—and a matter of concern!'"

When asked if the main purpose of using DU was for "destroying things and killing people", Fulk was more specific. "I would say it is the perfect weapon for killing lots of people!"

Principi could not be reached for comment prior to deadline.

(Source: by Bob Nichols, San Francisco Bay View, Feb. 23, 2005, <http://www.sfbayview.com/012605/headscroll012605.shtml>)

### SCIENTISTS SERIOUS ABOUT "ELECTRICITY SICKNESS" CLAIMS

For the first time, scientists and health advisers are taking seriously the claims of people who say electricity makes them ill. The UK National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) is carrying out a review of existing scientific studies into "electromagnetic hypersensitivity" (EHS).

Two studies into the condition, funded

with £750,000 from the Department of Health and the telecommunications industry, are already underway.

Sir William Stewart, the government's adviser on radiation, has called for more research into the issue.

Some researchers believe a proportion of the population suffers ill health—with symptoms including fatigue, severe headaches and skin problems—because of exposure to electromagnetic fields. Other scientists say there is no evidence.

The Swedish government, which recognised EHS as a physical impairment in 2000, calculates that 200,000 people—3.1 per cent of its population—suffer from the condition.

A recent warning by Sir William, head of the NRPB and the Health Protection Agency, that parents should limit their children's use of mobile phones, received widespread publicity. However, his suggestion that another section of the population, as well as the young, could have extra sensitivity to exposure to either radiofrequency fields from mobile phones or electromagnetic fields in general did not.

Dr David Dowson, a former GP who is now a complementary medicine specialist based in Bath, said he had seen around 10 patients he believed to be suffering from EHS. "I think the condition is increasing in prevalence because we are living in a more electrically polluted environment," he noted.

(Source: by Nic Fleming, The Telegraph, UK, January 24, 2005, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/>)

### EUROPEAN LIBEL LAW REVIEW OVER McDONALD'S RULING

The UK government is to review the libel laws after two penniless environmental campaigners who were sued by McDonald's, the global burger chain, recently won a ruling at the European Court of Human Rights that their rights to a fair trial and freedom of expression were violated when they were denied legal aid.

The libel battle pitted Helen Steel, a part-time barmaid earning £65 a week, and David Morris, a single parent on income support, against an expert legal team headed by a £2,000-a-day libel QC in a 313-day trial, the longest in English legal history.

Their victory in Strasbourg, hailed by their QC, Keir Starmer, as a "turning point" in the law of libel, will force the government to take steps to redress the balance between rich and poor in defamation cases.

Mr Starmer said: "Until now, only the rich and famous have been able to defend themselves against libel writs. Now ordinary people can participate much more effectively in public debate without the fear that they will be bankrupted for doing so. This case is a milestone for free speech."

The Strasbourg court awarded damages of £13,750 to Ms Steel and £10,300 to Mr Morris. Apart from paying the damages, the government will have to open the legal-aid purse strings to impecunious defendants sued by multinational corporations or wealthy individuals in complex



*"I think you'll find being on our Senate sub-committee rather poetic. Our sole task is to form fresh, new, Senate sub-committees."*

## ... GLOBAL NEWS ...

cases. At present, defamation is excluded from the scope of legal aid.

The unanimous ruling from Strasbourg will also prompt a re-examination of the libel laws, which many believe are too technical and complex and too heavily weighted in favour of claimants.

A spokeswoman for the Department for Constitutional Affairs said the government would be looking at the libel laws generally "in the context of this judgment".

The world's biggest fast-food chain spent an estimated £10 million on the case, which involved 28 pre-trial applications; the pair had to represent themselves with sporadic free help from friendly lawyers and £40,000 raised from supporters to help cover expenses such as transcripts and photocopying.

McDonald's sued Ms Steel and Mr Morris, both from north London, in 1990 over leaflets headed "What's Wrong With McDonald's?", which they distributed outside the burger chain's restaurants.

These accused the chain of exploiting children, being cruel to animals, destroying the rainforest, paying low wages and peddling unhealthy food.

Roger Smith, director of the law reform group Justice, said: "This is a wonderful victory for the sheer perseverance of two litigants who have just stuck to the task and insisted upon justice. It's also a recognition of legal aid as a basic human right which should be available in all types of cases where it is absolutely necessary."

(Source: by Clare Dyer, The Guardian, UK, February 16, 2005)

### BRIGHTEST GALACTIC FLASH EVER DETECTED HITS EARTH

A huge explosion halfway across the galaxy packed so much power it affected Earth's ionosphere in December, scientists have announced. The blast originated about 50,000 light-years away and was detected on December 27 last year.

The commotion was caused by a special variety of neutron star known as a *magnetar*. The blast was 100 times more powerful than any other similar eruption witnessed, said David Palmer of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Several researchers wonder if the magnetar blast could be related to the December 26 earthquake and tsunami.

"Had this happened within 10 light-years of us, it would have severely damaged our atmosphere and possibly have triggered a mass extinction," said Bryan Gaensler of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime event," said Rob Fender of Southampton University in the UK. "We have observed an object only 20 kilometres [12 miles] across, on the other side of our galaxy, releasing more energy in a tenth of a second than the Sun emits in 100,000 years."

The eruption was also recorded by the National Science Foundation's Very Large Array of radiotelescopes as well as European satellites and telescopes in Australia.

(Source: Space.com, February 21, 2005, [http://www.space.com/scienceastronomy/bright\\_flash\\_050218.html](http://www.space.com/scienceastronomy/bright_flash_050218.html))

### NEW ANTENNAS FOR HAARP

Phazar Corporation has announced that Antenna Products Corporation (APC) in Mineral Wells, Texas, a wholly owned subsidiary, was recently awarded a US\$3,723,531 firm fixed-price subcontract from BAE Systems ATI for the production of 270 Low Band Antenna Matching Unit Assemblies and 346 High Band Antenna Matching Unit Assemblies. This equipment will be manufactured at APC's plant in Mineral Wells, Texas, and deliveries are scheduled to begin in June 2005 and continue monthly through September 2005.

The equipment will be shipped to the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) ionospheric research site near Gokona, Alaska—the site of the recently completed installation of an array of 132 crossed-dipole antennas built and installed by APC in 2004.

(Source: News release, February 7, 2005, <http://www.antennaproducts.com/News.htm>)

### EPA ACCUSES DUPONT OF HIDING TEFLON'S HEALTH RISKS

More than 50 years after DuPont started producing Teflon, US federal officials are accusing the company of hiding information suggesting that a chemical used to make the popular stick- and stain-resistant coating might cause cancer, birth defects and other ailments.

Environmental regulators are particularly alarmed because scientists are finding perfluoro-octanoic acid, or PFOA, in the blood of people worldwide, and it takes years for the chemical to leave the body. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reported in early January that exposure even to low levels of PFOA could be harmful.

With virtually no government oversight, PFOA has been used since the early 1950s in the manufacture of non-stick cookware, rain-repellent clothing and hundreds of other products. The EPA is asking an outside panel of experts to assess the risks.

"The fact that a chemical with those non-stick properties nonetheless accumulates in people was not expected," said Charles Auer, director of the EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics.

Critics say the lack of knowledge about PFOA and related chemicals—called perfluorinated compounds—exposes a system where environmental regulators largely rely on companies that profit from industrial chemicals to sound alarms about their safety. Questions about potential



"Where's Osama?"

effects on human health and the environment often aren't raised until years after a chemical has been introduced to the marketplace.

Documents have been found detailing how DuPont scientists started warning company executives to avoid human contact with PFOA as early as 1961. Industry tests later determined that the chemical accumulates in the body, doesn't break down in the environment and causes ailments in animals, including cancer, liver damage and birth defects.

(Source: by Michael Hawthorne, Chicago Tribune, January 18, 2005)

## US DEVELOPING WEAPON TO INDUCE PAIN FROM A DISTANCE

The US military is developing a weapon that delivers extreme pain from a distance, for use against protesters and rioters.

Documents released under the US Freedom of Information Act show that scientists have received funding to investigate how much pain can be induced in individuals hit by laser-created electromagnetic pulses without killing them.

Due to be ready for use in 2007, the Pulsed Energy Projectile weapon is designed to trigger extreme pain from a distance of one-and-a-quarter miles. It fires a laser pulse that generates a burst of expanding plasma—electrically charged gas—when it hits something solid.

Tests on animals showed it produced "pain and temporary paralysis".

(Source: by Nic Fleming, The Telegraph, March 3, 2005, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk>)

## ARCTIC OZONE WIPED OUT BY SOLAR STORMS

Gigantic solar storms destroyed nearly 60 per cent of the ozone above the Arctic during the spring of 2004. Data collected from seven satellites showed that a record barrage of charged particles from the Sun in October and November 2003 destroyed large amounts of ozone.

It started when Earth's magnetic field funnelled some of the electrons from the solar storm into the upper atmosphere over the poles. The electrons ionised nitrogen molecules in that region, and the ions then combined with oxygen to form nitrogen oxides—levels of which rose dramatically towards the end of 2003. These molecules were sucked down into the stratosphere by polar vortex winds, where each one ripped apart hundreds of ozone molecules.

(Source: New Scientist, 12 March 2005)

## THINK RITALIN IS SAFE? READ WHAT NOVARTIS SAYS ABOUT ITS OWN PRODUCT!

by Joel Bainerman

If your child's doctor or a child psychiatrist diagnoses your child as suffering from ADD/ADHD and recommends that you give your child Ritalin each morning before school in order to counter the negative effects of ADD/ADHD, then you should be aware of all the facts surrounding Ritalin.

Instead of taking the advice of your doctor or anyone else as to whether Ritalin is safe, simply read the packaging label that Novartis puts inside each box of Ritalin. I did, and this is what it says:

*Ritalin is a mild central nervous system stimulant. The mode of action in man is not completely understood, but Ritalin presumably activates the brain stem arousal system and cortex to produce its stimulant effect. There is neither specific evidence which clearly establishes the mechanism whereby Ritalin produces its mental and behavioral effects in children, nor conclusive evidence regarding how these effects relate to the condition of the central nervous system.*

*Sufficient data on safety and efficacy of long-term use of Ritalin in children are not yet available. Although a causal relationship has not been established, suppression of growth (i.e., weight gain, and/or height) has been reported with the long-term use of stimulants in children.*

*Clinical experience suggests that in psychotic children, administration of Ritalin may exacerbate symptoms of behavior disturbance and thought disorder. Safe concomitant use of anticonvulsants and Ritalin has not been established.*

*Use cautiously in patients with hypertension. Blood pressure should be monitored at appropriate intervals in all patients taking Ritalin, especially those with hypertension.*

*Human pharmacologic studies have shown that Ritalin may inhibit the metabolism of coumarin anticoagulants, anticonvulsants (phenobarbital, diphenylhydantoin, primidone), phenylbutazone, and tricyclic drugs (imipramine, clomipramine, desipramine). The safety of using methylphenidate in combination with clonidine or other centrally acting alpha-2 agonists has not been systemically evaluated.*

The instructions for use on the package then state:

*Ritalin should be given cautiously to emotionally unstable patients, such as those with a history of drug dependence or alcoholism, because such patients may increase dosage on their own initiative.*

*Chronically abusive use can lead to marked tolerance and psychic dependence with varying degrees of abnormal behavior. Frank psychotic episodes can occur. Careful supervision is required during drug withdrawal, since severe depression as well as the effects of chronic overactivity can be unmasked. Long-term follow-up may be required because of the patient's basic personality disturbances. Patients with an element of agitation may react adversely. Prescription should not depend solely on the presence of one or more of the behavioral characteristics. When these symptoms are associated with acute stress reactions, treatment with Ritalin is usually not indicated. Long-term effects of Ritalin in children have not been well established.*

Here is what Novartis admits are the known side-effects that can occur from the first day the drug is consumed:

*Nervousness and insomnia are the most common adverse reactions but are usually controlled by reducing dosage and omitting the drug in the afternoon or evening. Other reactions include hypersensitivity (including skin rash, urticaria, fever, arthralgia, exfoliative dermatitis, erythema multiforme with histopathological findings of necrotizing vasculitis, and thrombocytopenic purpura); anorexia; nausea; dizziness; palpitations; headache; dyskinesia; drowsiness; blood pressure and pulse changes, both up and down; tachycardia; angina; cardiac arrhythmia; abdominal pain; weight loss during prolonged therapy. Toxic psychosis has been reported. Although a definite causal relationship has not been established, the following have been reported in patients taking this drug: instances of abnormal liver function, ranging from transaminase elevation to hepatic coma; isolated cases of cerebral arteritis and/or occlusion; leukopenia and/or anemia; transient depressed mood; a few instances of scalp hair loss. In children, loss of appetite, abdominal pain, weight loss during prolonged therapy, insomnia, and tachycardia may occur more frequently; however, any of the other adverse reactions listed above may also occur.*

(Source: Joel Bainerman, February 18, 2005, [isratech@netvision.net.il](mailto:isratech@netvision.net.il). Joel is a parent who recently took his child off Ritalin after learning of the potential dangers of the drug.)